



Monday 1st February at 7:30pm

in

**Friends Meeting House, about 50m along Greyfriars (off Southgate St at St Mary de Crypt),
Gloucester GL1 1TS,**

with parking at Ladybellegate St and Longsmith St, free after 7pm

(Members £2, Visitors very welcome £3)

'We Shall Defend our Island!': an Archaeological Analysis of the Second World War GHQ 'Stop' Line Green

by

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Constructed in 1940 as part of Great Britain's anti-invasion defensive countermeasures, GHQ Line Green was sited to protect the south-west city of Bristol from German invasion. Part of a countrywide network of static 'stop lines', by autumn 1940 the anti-invasion stratagem had evolved and the use of linear defence lines were now obsolete. Considered ineffective against 'blitzkrieg', GHQ Line Green was abandoned late 1940 / early 1941 as a singular defensive stratagem.

Viewed as a defensive folly bore out of linear warfare strategies derived from previous conflicts, this talk will address several questions regarding the siting of GHQ Line Green in the landscape: Does the proposed wartime route for the stop line match the documented archaeology; do the defensive fieldworks conform to 1940 War Office specifications; and does GHQ Line Green dismiss the defensive 'folly' notion of the Maginot Line by being strategically sited in the Bristol hinterland?